

Bernard Moore to George Washington, January 12, 1771, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COLONEL BERNARD MOORE.

12th. Jany 1771

DEAR SIR

My Circumstances are so situated as to make it Necessary for me to sell my whole Estate to pay my debts, & I am sorry to inform you it will take every shilling I have to effect that end, this will leave my Family (for whom only I feel) in a very distressful situation unless my friends will assist me in this my day of distress.

My long acquaintance with you and the Friendship that has ever subsisted between us, emboldens me to request the favour of you to join my other Friends in lending me money for a few years without interest, in which time, I hope to be able to work it out, as I have the advantage of working good Lands without paying Rent, but should I be mistaken I would not by any means have my friends suffer by me, I propose the Negroes should be bought in the name of the Gentleman who is so kind to lend the money & allways remain as Security to him for refunding his Principle.

My Nephew Mr. Aug: Seaton waits on you with this, who will inform you what my other friends propose doing, by whom I hope to receive your approbation of this Scheme & your kind assistance towards its execution.

Library of Congress

I am sincerely Dear Sir Your Affectio: Servt BERD. MOORE

P:S: I had given a Mortgage to Mr. C. W. Claiborne for several things to the amount of a thousand pounds for his security for my Executorship to Spotswoods Estate¹ besides several hundred pounds I had a wright to draw out of the' hands of the Speakers Administrators, all which (as I owe Spotswoods Estate not one farthing) I have Mortgaged to you and others, that you may assure yourSelf your Brothers Estate cannot suffer one Shilling was his debt much larger.²

B. M.

1 Bernard Moore was one of the executors to the estate of John Spotswood, elder son of Governor Spotswood.
2 COLCHESTER Jany. 23d. 2772 DEAR SIR Your Letter of the 22th. Ins. by Mr. Seaton was delivered to me at this place in my way to Dumfries where I was am going upon an Arbitration fixd to this day.—I am exceedingly sorry to hear of your unfortunate Circumstances and wish that my own affairs and the situation of my own Engagements, woud suffer permit me to subscribe more largely to your relief than they will; but having several pretty large Sums of my own to pay in a short time it is utterly out of my power (with any sort of convenience) to advance more than One hundred pounds for the purpose and on the terms you mention; this I am willing to do, and accordingly have wrote to the Trustees informing them thereof—I have no doubt but you will put of your putting me upon as good a footing as any of the rest other Subscribers & therefore I shall say anything do not condition with you for terms or further on that head but again beg that something effectual may be done to secure myself & Brothers from the payment of your Bond to Mr. Lightfoots Estate this woud not only be a hardship upon us to do but be exceedingly inconvenient to accomplish as I am sensible it would be attended with great Inconvenience to some of them to advance this money & be a hardship upon us all I am Dr Sir Yr. Most Ob H Servt. GO. W— COLO. BERND. MOORE. GENTS Colo. Bd. Moore having informed me that he is endeavouring to make up a Sum of Money to purchase some Slaves for the immediate Support of his Family I do hereby agree to become Answerable to you you as his Trustees on this acct. for the Sum of One Hundd. pounds Curry payable a year hence.— I am Gentn. Yr. Most Obt. Go. W— Jany. 23d. 2772 To CARTER BRAXTON Esqr. & the Gentn. Trustees of Colo. B Moore.